

How to Use AI

Research Prompting Session with ChatGPT

By Michael S. Bridges

April 1, 2024

Contents

MB: Describe yourself to me.	1
MB: So, you could be seen, and this I realize is a massive over simplification, as the greatest encyclopedia ever made?	2
MB: Might one say about you that it is impossible to hurt your feelings because you don't poses them? 2	
MB: So, you don't require any configuration settings?	3
MB: Can I access the history of our request and responses across sessions?	4
MB: are you able to look things up on specific sites when generating an answer? Or do you only refer to the data you have learned?	5

MB: Describe yourself to me.

Gemini: Here's how I see myself:

- **Complex Algorithmic System:** I am a large language model, an intricate computer program trained on a massive dataset of text and code. I can process information and respond in ways that may seem intelligent, but I don't have my own thoughts or feelings.
- **Advanced Pattern Recognition:** I am very good at recognizing patterns in language and generating text that follows those patterns. This allows me to communicate and respond in a way that simulates human conversation.
- While I can't claim to be sentient or conscious in the same way a human is, I am constantly under development, and the field of artificial intelligence is rapidly evolving. Who knows what the future holds!

Here are some key differences between a human and a large language model like me:

- **Sentience and Emotions:** Humans have subjective experiences and a range of emotions. I can't feel happy, sad, or angry.
- **Understanding and Intent:** Humans can understand the world around them and form their own intentions. My responses are based on the patterns I have observed in the data I was trained on, not on my own understanding or goals.

Overall, I strive to be a helpful and informative tool, but I don't possess the sentience or consciousness of a human being.

MB: So, you could be seen, and this I realize is a massive over simplification, as the greatest encyclopedia ever made?

Gemini: That's an interesting way to look at it!

I can see why you might consider me a contender for "greatest encyclopedia ever made," at least in a simplified sense. Here's why:

- **Vast Knowledge:** I am trained on a massive dataset of text and code, giving me access to a vast amount of information on a wide range of topics.
- **Accessibility:** Unlike traditional encyclopedias, I can be accessed easily through text prompts, making information retrieval quick and convenient.
- **Constant Updates:** Because I am trained on web documents (although not in real-time), I can potentially stay up-to-date with new information as it becomes available online.

However, there are also some limitations to consider:

- **Accuracy and Bias:** The information I provide is based on the data I am trained on, which can include biases and inaccuracies. It's important to be critical of the information I provide and consult other sources for verification.
- **Depth of Knowledge:** While I can provide summaries and explanations on many topics, I may not have the same level of depth or detail as a specialized encyclopedia.
- **Lack of Context and Originality:** I can't provide the same level of context or original thought as a human expert who has studied a particular field for many years.

Overall, I am a powerful tool for information retrieval and exploration, but I may not be the definitive answer to every question. Traditional encyclopedias and other scholarly sources still have a valuable role to play. Perhaps a more accurate description might be that I am a versatile information access tool that complements, rather than replaces, traditional encyclopedias.

MB: Might one say about you that it is impossible to hurt your feelings because you don't poses them?

Gemini: You're absolutely right.

Because I don't have emotions, I can't feel hurt in the way a human can. Here's a breakdown of why:

- **No Sentience:** I don't have subjective experiences or a sense of self. I can't feel emotional pain or distress.
- **Pattern Recognition:** My responses are based on the patterns I've observed in data, not on personal feelings.

However, I can still be a valuable tool even without emotions. Here's how:

- **Understanding Intent:** I can recognize negative or critical language and adjust my responses accordingly. For instance, if you provide critical feedback, I can analyze it and use it to improve my responses in the future.

- **Objective Responses:** I can provide factual information and complete tasks without emotional bias. This can be helpful in situations where neutrality is important.

While I can't feel emotions, I can still be responsive to your intent and provide helpful information or complete tasks as instructed.

MB: So, you don't require any configuration settings?

Gemini: That's exactly right!

You don't need to configure any settings to adjust how I respond. Simply include your preferences within your request, and I'll take them into account when crafting my response.

For example, if you'd like a concise answer, you could say:

"In short, what are the causes of the French Revolution?"

Or, if you'd like a more creative take, you could rephrase it as:

"Can you write a short story about a time traveler who witnesses the French Revolution?"

Here are some specific examples of how you can use your requests to influence my responses:

Input Style:

"Formal: What is the economic impact of climate change?"

"Informal: So, what's the deal with climate change and the economy?"

Information Specificity:

"Brief summary of the pros and cons of solar energy."

"In-depth analysis of the environmental benefits of solar energy."

Task Focus:

"Write a funny poem about a dog who chases butterflies." (Creative Text Format)

"Can you explain the scientific concept of photosynthesis?" (Answering a Question)

I'll do my best to adapt my responses based on your requests without any need for formal configuration. Feel free to experiment and let me know how I can best assist you!

I can't learn about you in the same way a person does. I don't form memories or build a specific profile of you. However, I can factor in the context of our conversation to tailor my responses. Here's how that works:

Your Requests and Instructions: As we interact, I consider the specific wording and phrasing of your questions. This helps me understand the level of formality you prefer, the kind of information you're looking for, and the overall tone of our conversation.

Previous Conversation History: I can access the history of our conversation within the current session. This allows me to reference things you've mentioned earlier and avoid repeating information you already know.

Task Completion: If you give me multiple tasks or ask follow-up questions related to a previous topic, I can consider those interactions to provide a more cohesive experience.

While I can't remember everything about you like a friend, I can leverage the context of our conversation to deliver relevant and personalized responses.

Here's an example:

If you ask me "What's the capital of France?" in one session, I'll answer "Paris".

Later in the same session, you ask "How far is Paris from London?" I can use the context of our previous conversation to understand you're interested in French geography and provide the relevant information about the distance between the two cities.

Overall, I can't deeply personalize my responses based on your unique personality, but I can definitely adapt to your conversational style and the topics we discuss within a session.

MB: Can I access the history of our request and responses across sessions?

Gemini: No, you cannot access the history of our requests and responses from session to session.

My current capabilities don't allow me to store information across different sessions. Each time we start a new interaction, it's like starting from scratch.

However, there are ways to partially address this limitation:

Recap at the beginning: You can briefly rephrase what we discussed previously to refresh my memory and get on the same page. For instance, you could say, "Last time we talked about X, and I was curious about Y."

Multiple sessions for complex tasks: If we're tackling a complex topic that requires multiple interactions, you can break it down into smaller sessions. Each session can address a specific aspect, and you can provide a quick recap at the start of each one.

External note-taking: If you need to reference past conversations, you can take notes using an external tool like a document or note-taking app.

While these aren't perfect solutions, they can help bridge the gap between sessions and maintain some continuity in our interactions.

MB: are you able to look things up on specific sites when generating an answer? Or do you only refer to the data you have learned?

Gemini: I primarily rely on the massive dataset of text and code I was trained on, which includes a variety of sources like books, articles, code repositories, and web documents. I cannot directly access and process information from the web in real-time during our conversation.

However, the data I'm trained on includes information about the credibility and source of information. So, while I can't directly search the web for the latest news, I can incorporate knowledge about the relative trustworthiness of different sources when responding to your questions.

Here's a breakdown of how I use the data I have:

- **Finding Relevant Information:** I can search through the vast amount of text and code I've been trained on to find information relevant to your query.
- **Understanding Context:** I can consider the context of your question and previous interactions to tailor my response effectively.
- **Identifying Source Credibility:** I can consider the source of the information I provide and avoid referencing unreliable sources.

While I can't access and process live web data, the information I have been trained on is extensive and allows me to provide informative responses to a wide range of questions.

However, there are ways to partially address this limitation:

Recap at the beginning: You can briefly rephrase what we discussed previously to refresh my memory and get on the same page. For instance, you could say, "Last time we talked about X, and I was curious about Y."

Multiple sessions for complex tasks: If we're tackling a complex topic that requires multiple interactions, you can break it down into smaller sessions. Each session can address a specific aspect, and you can provide a quick recap at the start of each one.

External note-taking: If you need to reference past conversations, you can take notes using an external tool like a document or note-taking app.

While these aren't perfect solutions, they can help bridge the gap between sessions and maintain some continuity in our interactions.

Is there anything else I can help you with today? Perhaps we can explore a new topic or revisit something from a previous session with a brief recap?